

John Lewis

CIVIL RIGHTS ICON MAKES FINAL TRIP TO CAPITOL HILL

National President Paul Hogrogian, National Secretary-Treasurer Michael Hora, and the entire National Executive Board are saddened to note the passing of John Lewis, a civil rights legend, who for the past three decades has served as the representative of Georgia's 5th Congressional District.

Although Lewis rightfully was recognized as the conscience of the Congress during his years in Washington, during the thirty years before he was elected to Congress he became an American hero as one of the youngest, and bravest, leaders of the fight for civil rights and voting rights during the 1960s. Working with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other leaders of his day, Lewis showed the tenacity and the courage necessary to help forge the moral and political support needed to get the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act through a previously recalcitrant legislative branch. He was a Freedom Rider in the early 1960s, a keynote speaker at the historic 1963 March on Washington, and is most frequently remembered for his role in the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama in 1965, when he helped spur enactment of the Voting Rights Act, notwithstanding the tear gas that was released on the marchers and the billy clubs that fractured his skull.

As former President Barack Obama said, John Lewis "loved this country so much that he risked his life and his blood so that it might live up to its promise. And through the decades, he not only gave all of himself to the cause of freedom and justice, but inspired generations that followed to try to live up to his example."

Congressman Lewis first visited Black Lives Matter Plaza with Washington, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser on June 7, 2020. Seven weeks later, the motorcade carrying the body of the late Rep. Lewis (D-Ga.) stopped at the Black Lives Matter Plaza, as it made its way to Capitol Hill one final time. The funeral procession for the longtime Congressman briefly paused as it reached the plaza. Hundreds gathered in the area to pay tribute and witness the procession.

May John Lewis rest in peace, so that others can continue the "good trouble" needed for continued progress towards justice and the American ideal.

